

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 02288 171210Z
ACTION ARA-14

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R 171130Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7214

UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 2288

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SENT ACTION DEPT OF AGRICULTURE INFO CARACAS
JULY 11 REPEATED TO YOU
QUOTE
UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 2288

USDA FOR JACK MCDONALD, WESTERN HEMISPHERE AREA OFFICER

CARACAS FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGE
SUBJECT: P.L. 480 TITLE I SHIPMENT TO GUYANA - WHEAT FLOUR

REF: (A) GEORGETOWN 0779, (B) GEORGETOWN 2210
(C) OUR TELCON OF 7/11/78

FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM AGATT.

1. ON BASIS DISCUSSIONS WITH USAID DIRECTOR AND GOG
REPRESENTATIVE, HAVE LEARNED THAT FIRST SHIPMENT OF WHEAT FLOUR
RECEIVED EARLY JUNE DISCLOSES THAT WHEAT MAY NOT BE OF SOFT
WHEAT VARIETY AS HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY GOG. ROSS, DIXIE AND
PILLSBURY WON BID FOR SHIPMENTS.

2. FIRST SHIPMENT OF 898 TONS DIVIDED EQUALLY BETWEEN ROSS AND
DIXIE ARRIVED RECENTLY. ROSS SHIPMENT APPEARS TO BE ENTIRELY
HARD WHEAT WHICH IS NOT SUITABLE FOR MAKING CRACKERS. AS GUYANA
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DOES NOT HAVE TESTING FACILITIES, BAKING TESTS WERE CONDUCTED
WHICH DISCLOSED FLOUR MAKES EXCELLENT BREAD BUT NOT GOOD CRACKERS.
BAKING TESTS NOW BEING CONDUCTED ON DIXIE. PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION INDICATES THAT DIXIE MAY BE SOFT WHEAT.

3. RE REMAINING SHIPMENTS, PRELIMINARY CHECKS WITH PILLSBURY
INDICATES FIRST SHIPMENT HAS LEFT US AND CONTAINS PREMIX, BOTH

HARD AND SOFT WHEAT. UNDERSTAND OTHER SHIPMENTS WILL FOLLOW. ON BASIS PRELIMINARY REVIEW HERE, IT APPEARS THAT SPECIFICATIONS WERE WRITTEN WITH USDA COOPERATION BROAD ENOUGH SUCH THAT BOTH SOFT AND HARD WHEAT FLOUR COULD BE INCLUDED. HOWEVER, DUE PROBLEM MENTIONED IN REF (B), GOG REITERATES ITS NEEDS ARE FOR SOFT WHEAT FLOUR FOR MAKING CRACKERS.

4. GOG REPRESENTATIVE IN GUYANESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, DC, DENNIS GOUVELA, REPORTED TO GOG OFFICIALS GEORGETOWN THAT HE HAS BEEN ASSURED BY PILLSBURY THAT THEIR SHIPMENT IS SUITABLE FOR CRACKER PRODUCTION. HOWEVER, CONCERN IS THAT LATTER STATMENT UNDOUBTEDLY BASED ON US CRACKER AND BISCUIT MAKING TECHNOLOGY TOGETHER WITH MODERN BAKING CAPABILITIES WHICH EXIST IN US AND DO NOT EXIST IN GUYANA.

5. SITUATION IS SERIOUS IN VIEW FACT US FLOUR MILL IN GUYANA HAS SUFFICIENT STOCKS TO SUPPLY FLOUR NEEDS FOR GENERAL BAKING PURPOSES. ADDITIONALLY, GOVERNMENT CLAIMS IT WILL SUFFER SERIOUS FINANCIAL LOSS SINCE THE P.L. 480 FLOUR COSTS MORE THAN USUAL TYPE HARD WHEAT FLOUR IMPORTED FOR GENERAL BAKING PURPOSES AND PRICE WILL HAVE TO BE REDUCED TO DISPOSE OF IT. FURTHERMORE FINANCIAL SITUATION IS SUCH THAT THEY CANNOT NOW IMPORT REQUIRED TYPE SOFT WHEAT FLOUR. THIS IS FIRST P.L. 480 AGREEMENT SINCE 1972. THIS TYPE OF OCCURRENCES NOT ATTENDED TO BY USDA IS EMBARRASSING FOR US RELATIONS WITH GOG AND COULD JEOPARDIZE RELATIONSHIP WITH EMBASSY AND MISSION CONTACTS.

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6. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE CONTACT OGSM. IF ANYTHING CAN BE DONE TO BRING ABOUT A FAST MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATED. IN VIEW PROBLEM WITH WIDE RANGE IN SPECIFICATIONS, WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL IF WE KNOW WHY USDA PERMITTED THEM TO BE WRITTEN AS SUCH.

7. AS SOON AS YOU HAVE HANDLE ON STORY, WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU CALL USAID DIRECTOR, MISS EDNA BOORADY, TELEPHONE 63206 IN GEORGETOWN, GUYANA ASAP. DWYER UNQUOTE
DWYER

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